

**News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth**

**For Immediate Release**

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**HOUSE PASSES FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS BILL CONFERENCE REPORT**

**Includes funding for South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Research Programs**

**November 4, 2005, Washington, D.C.** – The U.S. House of Representatives today approved the Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill conference report, which includes instructions, requested by Rep. Herseth, to fund programs for South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T) research and study initiatives. The funding will enhance the SDSM&T's international exchange programs, including professor and researcher exchanges, student service projects, distance education development, and student education and area-specific research through USAID's International Outreach Program at schools in Mongolia, Serbia and India.

Herseth said, "The School of Mines and Technology has a tremendous reputation, and a long tradition of providing educational opportunities for students around the globe. I am pleased that this funding will help enhance international exchange among our best and brightest researchers and professors in places like Mongolia, Serbia and India."

This funding is included as what is known as a "soft earmark," meaning that a dollar amount is not specified, but the project will receive priority consideration when an application is made for federal funds. Overall, the bill includes \$20.9 billion in funding for foreign aid and foreign policy initiatives.

For nearly a decade SDSM&T and the Mongolia University of Science and Technology have been collaborating with student and faculty exchanges. Additionally, SDSM&T is developing exchange relationships Sri Ramakrishna Engg. College/CBE of India and the University of Belgrade (Beograd) in Serbia. Among other subjects, these programs will explore

geology and geological engineering, water and sanitation systems, growth and development of private enterprise, and technological infrastructure..

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*Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth serves South Dakota in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of moderate Democrats committed to fiscal discipline and strong national security, and is co-chair of the Rural Working Group, which is dedicated to raising the profile of issues important to rural America. She also serves on three committees vital to South Dakota's interests: Agriculture, Veterans' Affairs and Resources.*